The TWA Hotel's Lockheed Constellation

THE "CONNIE" FLIES THROUGH NYC

TWA

HOTEL

John F. Kennedy International Airport
New York City

MCR MORSE

The magic of the Jet Age returns to John F. Kennedy International Airport with a 1958 Lockheed Constellation L-1649A Starliner (the "Connie") positioned on the TWA Hotel's tarmac outside the landmark 1962 TWA Flight Center. Known as the secret weapons of TWA's former owner, Howard Hughes, the airline's fleet of cutting-edge Constellation planes broke the era's transcontinental speed record. The aircraft will make history again as the first Connie transformed into a cocktail lounge.

Project Overview

The TWA Hotel (currently under development by MCR and MORSE Development) will feature a one-of-a-kind cocktail lounge inside the fuselage of a fully restored Lockheed Constellation L-1649A Starliner (the "Connie").

- The exterior of the plane is fully restored, complete with authentic 1962 TWA livery, engines and propellers.
- The interior fuselage of the plane will be refurbished and designed as a high-end lounge with 30 to 40 seats.
- The Connie will sit on the TWA Hotel's "tarmac" located just outside the lobby.

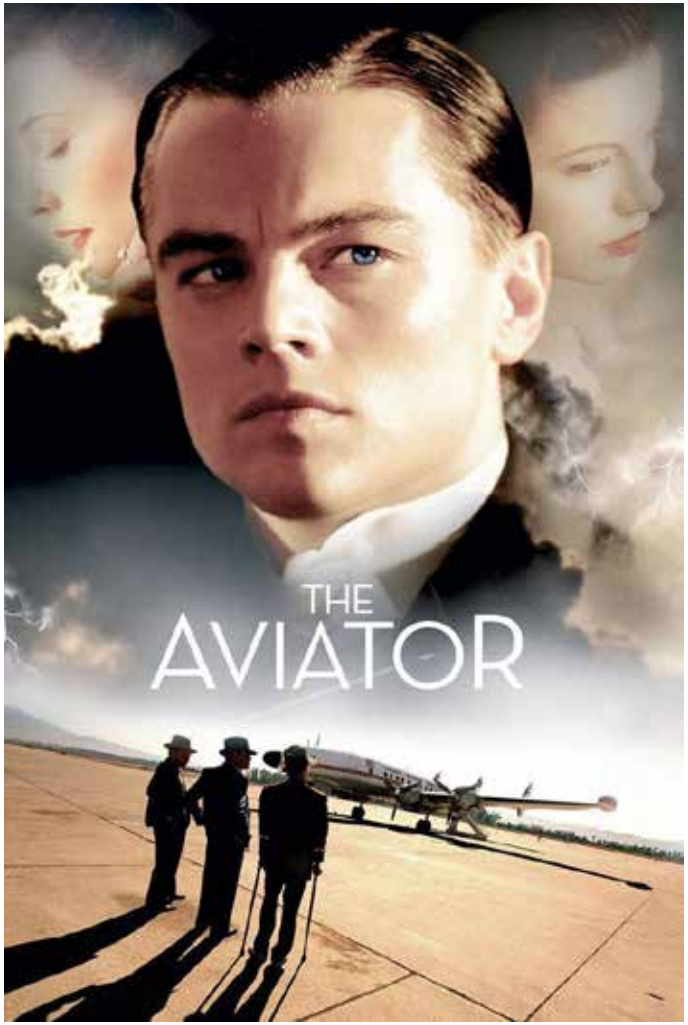
Project Overview

- MCR and MORSE Development purchased the aircraft from Lufthansa in early 2018.
  - The plane is one of four remaining Lockheed Constellation L-1649As in the entire world (only 44 total were made).
  - Lufthansa purchased three L-1649As as part of the airline's "Super Star" project.
  - TWA Hotel and Lufthansa have entered into a long-term strategic partnership to promote the aircraft.
- Atlantic Models and Florida Air Transport (seasoned historic aircraft professionals) restored the plane at Auburn-Lewiston Airport in Maine.
- In October 2018, the Connie will journey from Maine through the heart of Manhattan and finally to the TWA Hotel at JFK Airport.
  - The plane will travel down I-95 through the Bronx and into Manhattan.
  - While in Manhattan, the Connie will have a weekend long "layover" in NYC.
- Bay Crane will hoist the aircraft into place at the exact spot where Connies used to park after landing at JFK.
- The aircraft will be transformed into a one-of-a-kind cocktail lounge.

Connie: A Bird's Eye View

- The Constellation was designed by Lockheed Aircraft and aviation pioneer Howard Hughes, the former owner of TWA.
- Hughes secretly purchased 35 planes for TWA under the condition that no other airline could buy them until his aircraft were received.
- Only 44 Lockheed Constellations were produced from 1939 to 1959; a mere four remain today.
- TWA was the first commercial airliner to fly nonstop between North America and Europe in the Connie.
- The L-1649A Starliner was introduced in 1956 and featured:
  - A 150-foot wingspan.
  - A length of 116 feet – half a New York City block.
  - Seats for 58 passengers.
  - A speed of 350 MPH with a range of 6,500 miles.
- The Boeing 707, which carried 190 passengers at 600 MPH, was introduced in 1958, forcing the Connie into retirement by 1967.

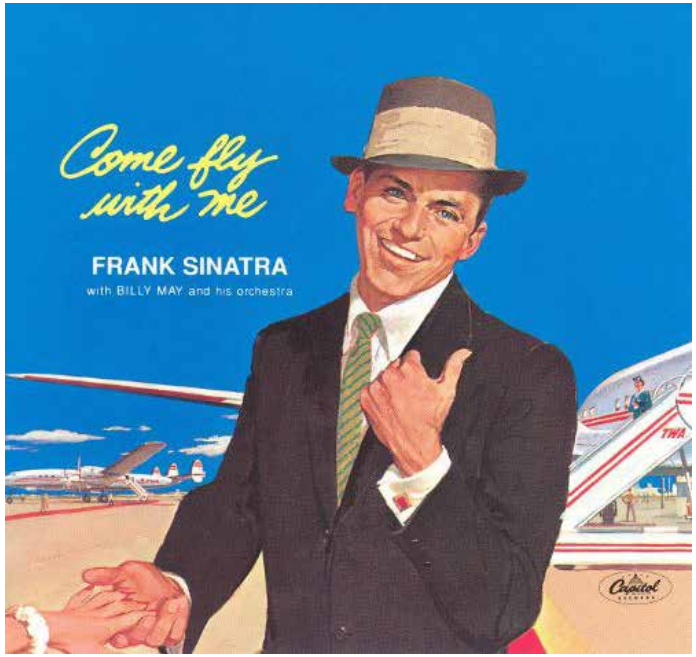
Connie: A Pop Culture Icon



Leonardo DiCaprio played Howard Hughes in the Oscar-winning 2004 film *The Aviator.*

The Lockheed Constellation C-121 *Columbine II* served as Air Force One for President Dwight D. Eisenhower from 1952 to 1954, when it was replaced by another Connie, *Columbine III*.

A fleet of TWA Constellations flanked Frank Sinatra on his "Come Fly With Me" album cover.



TWA Hotel's Connie

- Connie N8083H served nine years as a passenger airplane and freighter with TWA.
  - Delivered to TWA in April 1958, she entered service the following month.
  - She retired from passenger service in December 1960.
  - She continued to fly as a freighter for TWA until April 1962 when she became an Alaskan bush plane shuttling supplies to Prudhoe bay.
  - Retired in May 1967, she was used for spare parts in Seattle, WA.
- She shuttled fuel for a number of small airlines.
- In the early 1980s, she was utilized by South American drug traffickers.
  - She got stuck in the mud with damaged propeller blades in 1983 and was abandoned in Honduras.
- Maine Coast Airways purchased her in 1986 and stored her at Auburn-Lewiston Airport.
- Lufthansa acquired her in 2007 to provide parts for the restoration of another Connie.

Connie Under Renovation in August 2018

Connie in September 2018

Connie Before and After

Connie Transport: The Journey

Worldwide Aircraft Recovery Ltd. will drive the plane 344 miles from Auburn, Maine, and 46 miles through New York City to JFK Airport.

Preparing the Connie for takeoff in Auburn, Maine

TWA HOTEL

Aircraft Moves Generate Headlines

The New York Times

Flight of the Concorde Back to the Intrepid

BY PATRICK MCGEEHAN OCTOBER 16, 2008 3:00 PM

The Last Leg of a Space Shuttle's Journey to Manhattan

BY PATRICK MCGEEHAN JUNE 6, 2012 10:37 AM 14

A Space Shuttle's Final Voyage

THOMSON REUTERS

Space shuttle Enterprise docks at New York museum home

Concorde to Travel to Brooklyn, but Not by Air

By PATRICK McGEEHAN NOV. 5, 2006

The New York Times

THE HUFFINGTON POST

SCIENCE 06/03/2012 10:10 am ET | Updated Dec 06, 2012

Space Shuttle 'Enterprise,' Shuttle Replica 'Explorer' Move In NYC And Houston Sunday, June 3

Curvaceous 'Connie' plane rescued from oblivion

Originally published January 9, 2010 at 8:00 pm | Updated January 11, 2010 at 10:47 am

The Seattle Times

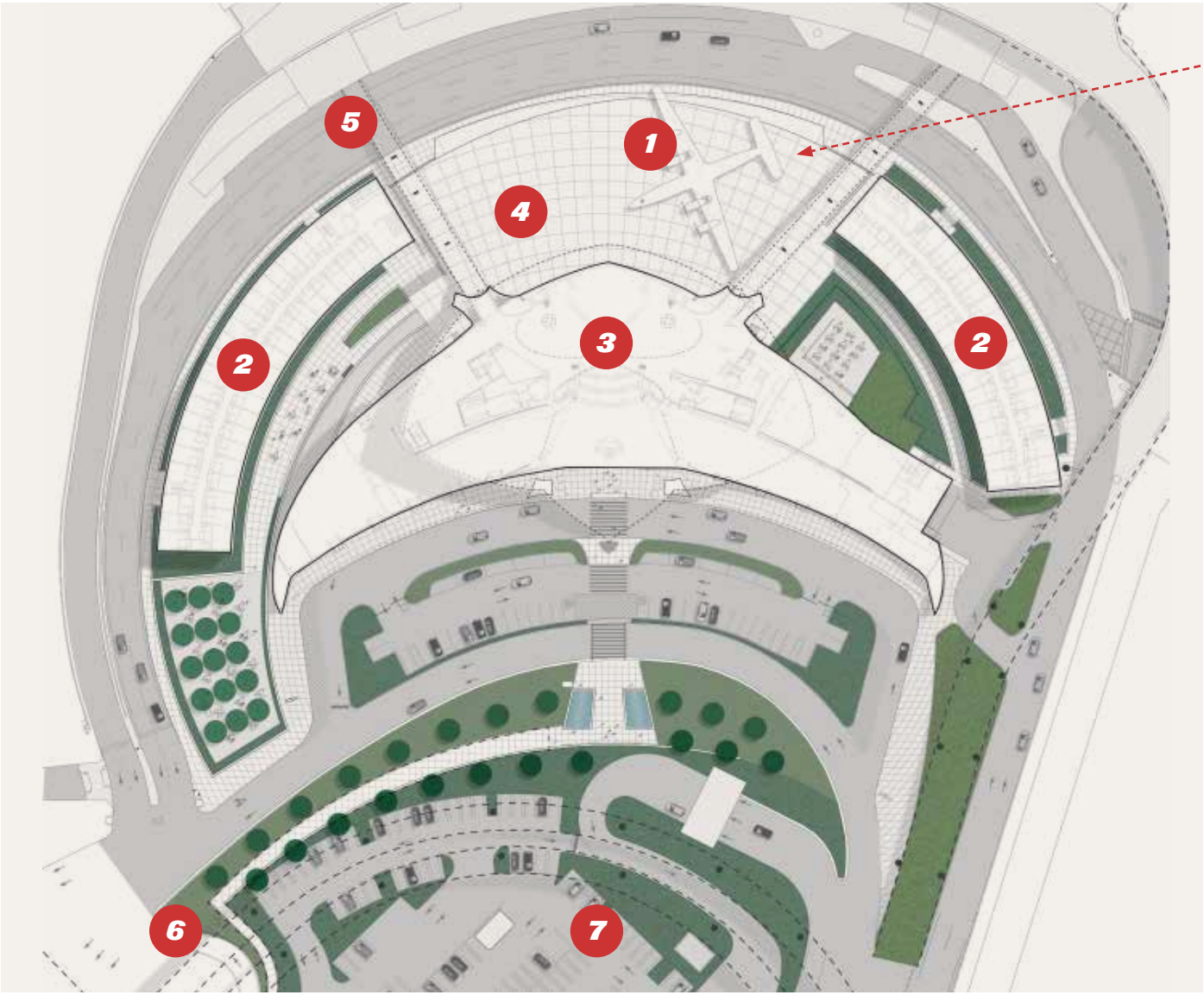
4 NEW YORK

Concorde Jet Returns to Intrepid Museum

A retired British Airways Concorde supersonic jetliner was lifted into place on a pier next to the Intrepid Museum

Published at 11:06 PM EDT on Jul 16, 2009 | Updated at 10:35 AM EDT on Jul 22, 2009

Connie's Home at the TWA Hotel



1 Connie cocktail lounge, positioned on the TWA Hotel "tarmac"

2 512-room hotel

3 200,000-square-foot heart of the hotel with retail outlets, restaurants and bars

4 50,000-square-foot event and conference center that can hold up to 1,600 people

5 Flight tubes to JetBlue Terminal 5 made famous by the 2002 film *Catch Me If You Can*

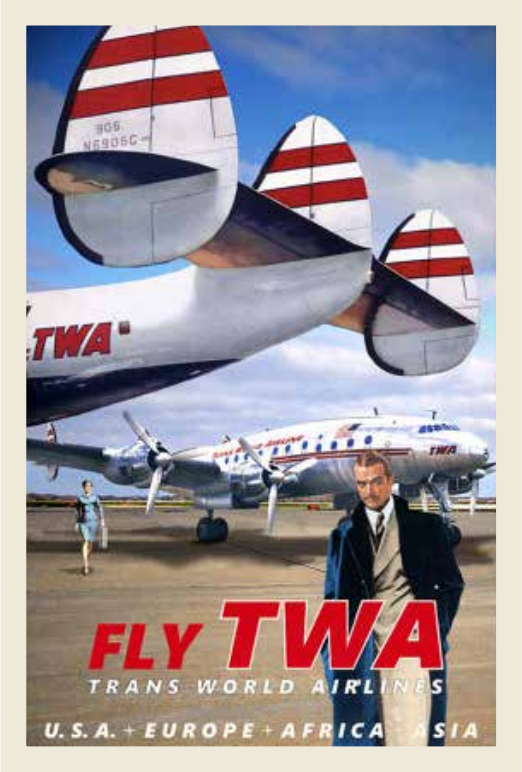
6 AirTrain to JFK terminals

7 4,000 parking spaces

TWA Hotel: Restoration Overview

- Complete restoration of the treasured Eero Saarinen-designed landmark — built specially for the Connie — to its 1962 glory as the heart of TWA Hotel.
- World-class project team includes top tier firms with $2 billion worth of experience building at JFK.
- 512 guestrooms and 50,000-square-foot event center that can host up to 1,600 people.
- Only on-airport, AirTrain accessible hotel at JFK.
- JFK Airport is the no. 1 gateway to the United States:
  - 60 million passengers annually
  - 1,300 flights per day
  - 160,000 passengers per day
  - 40,000 airport employees
- 60% of JFK Airport passengers are within a three-minute walk to the hotel, and the balance of the airport passengers are a five-minute AirTrain ride away.
- 10,000 visitors expected to pass through the hotel every day.
- 3+ billion press impressions to date.
- Connected physically to JetBlue's Terminal 5 (24% of JFK traffic) via iconic flight tubes made famous by 2002's *Catch Me If You Can*. JetBlue is expected to expand from Terminal 5 to Terminals 6 and 7, increasing from 29 to 58 gates.

Up Up & Away!



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